THE GRIP OF HONOR

Cyrus Totensend Brady.

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Author of "The Southerners," "In the Wasp's Nest," Etc.

Chapter L-While cruising in the ship woman seen upon the weeks utenant larry O'Neill (Marus bemoni), an officer of the K aged companion, 411,—Th She thinks be

fien, and then came nearer. "Who is this person?" he demanded imperious-

"Are you a 'Lady,' madam?" said O'Neill in equal surprise, addressing tween the r swords, "He saved my friend?" the astonished girl and paying no at- life at the risk of his own."

tention to the others. "For what else do you take her sir" interpreted the officer, bristling with in-

"Faith, sir, I would take her 'for better or worse," as I could," replied the who continued impetuously; Irishman smiling. "Unfortunately for you, that is a

privilege I propose to exercise myself," said the Englishman sternly. "The world will doubtless share my

regret, sir," said the Irishman auda- ample," retorted O'Neill calmly, donsly, a bitter pang in his breast at this unlooked for news. "Now I wish to know who you are

and how you come here and what you are doing an explanation, sir!" asked the officer. "I am not accustomed to give ex-

planations save to those who have the right to demand them," replied O'Neill. This seems to be one of the times, If "I have two rights, sir," orher are?

"First, I am betrethed to this young lady," said the officer. "Second, this," laying his band upon his sword

from your point of view, neither of them from mine. As to the first, I refer you to the young lady herself; I will have it from her own lips or not at all; as to the second, you will see I have a similar right of my own." "Will you, Lady Elizabeth," said the girl determinedly. "If you fight, you

young other, addressing her formally, will light through me." have the goodness to inform me how | "We are doing that now," said O'Nelll or shall I force the knowledge from am?"

think, better give it him. Otherwise I

be pleasant and at no time so inoppor- in this yere little scrimmage, yer hon- action if you will give me your pa-

ment and perturbation opened his that chunp of rocks youder." month to speak, but he was interrupt-

"Why so, Mistress Howard?"

"Lady Elizabeth, if you please, sir," as the boat shoved off araba

"Lady Elizabeth, then. I thank you, stamping her foot on the sand. "You the Irishman said to her; sir, for the reminder," answered O'Neill are a pirate after all?" suavely. "Your friends on the Ranger "As you say, madam. Stop, sir!" are all interested in your welfare, and said O'Neill to Coventry, who made a I am sure they are glad in my person move to re-proach the saller, to meet with and congratulate the for- man will do no harm to her ladyship. tears. "I knew what you would do." tunate gentleman who aspires to your and you have other matters to attend | Delay was dangerous to him. Coven-

Will you tell me or not, Lady Eliza- | Coventry had been playing for more both, who this person is and how you fime, but this was more than he could

claimed Coventry hotly. "Stop," cried O'Neill, stepping for-"You shall neither swear before a lady direct English school, while O'Neill have sent for a carriage for you, Elizanor shall you in this seandalous man- was a master of all the graceful tricks both, which will be here shortly." per disparage the ship of which I have of the subtle fence of France and Italy. the honor to be the first lieutement nor It was as pretty a play, parry and have a mind to say to you that I might Withdraw your words or you shall answer to me with that which hangs by

"I fight only with gentlemen," said

"My custom," replied O'Neill prompt ly, "is in the main the same as your own, but I sometimes make exceptions, which I am willing to do in this instance. I require you immediately, instantly, to apologize to me for your remarks."

"And if I refuse?"

"I shall strike them down your throat with my hand." "'S death, sir! How dare you, a

beggarly adventurer, talk thus to me, an officer, a major, in the army of his gracious majesty King George, a Coventry, a Westbrooke!" "If you were an angel from heaven

twould make no difference to me, for I would have you know, sir, that I am of as good a house as-aye, a better than-your own, a descendant of

"An Irishman, I infer?" said Coventry, sneering.

"You are correct, sir, and my people have been chieftnins for thirty genera-

two combatants

on the rocks some distance away.

"Where else, sir, and where better? as for me I am tomporarily an afficer of vonder slip, the Ranger, flying the gittering point of his enemy's sword. shivering in the sunlight like a serflag of the American republic, but I ain a lieutenant in the navy of his mal-pent's tongue, effectively barred the esty Louis XVI. My father is a mary way. He had played the game and shal of Prance. Will you draw now?" lost. If he must die in the presence of he cried, stepping forward impetuous- his love, he would do it like a gentle-

"A brilliant array of titles surely! "Strike, sir!" he said hoarsely, with Pity it lacks other confirmation than one quick glance toward Lady Elizayour word. I scarcely comprehend the both, who stood perfectly motionless, looking on in terror. She would have "I shall endeavor to enlighten you as run forward had it not been for old

ed!" wailed the maid.

asked Coventry, who was playing for sword," said O'Neill, lowering his point, "Sir Irishman," said the other, bow;

"Not with impunity, sir," interrupted "On guard!" cried the Englishman, personal worth at every convenient

do not know your name, to call you my "Curse him" said the Englishman, the point of a naked sword, and it may

with an expressive glance at Elizabeth. My name is O'Neill, Barry O'Neill, at

Your service." "I shall remember it. You have not only saved the life of Lady Elizabeth Howard, but now you have given me

Thus am I the prince of matchmakers," said O'Neill bitterly, "I would "Will you hear me in silence, Edthat I had lost mine in one of the savings!

"I call them so," said Coventry stubregarding this last remark, "if you would be advised by me, withdraw

red coated soldiers clambered down the path in the rocks, peeasion. We are friends? "I will not go!" said the girl defiantwhile a sound of cavalry "You shall not light; you have came galloping upon the beach by the road at the other end, and, at once dismounting, advanced up the strand. The scamen in the boat in obedience to a wave of O'Neill's hand, swept her in toward the shore, jumped out and ships of war and bloody battles bemoved toward him, drawing their cut- tween loving hearts. Mistress Howlasses and handling their pistols threat- ard, fare you well. The Ranger, her eningly -though they were greatly out- officers and crew are yours if you wish. numbered they would not give up with- If we should be met by another ship out a struggle. It was Coventry's op- with you in command, we strike to portunity now. "I shall not be able to you without a blow." indulte your desire for the loss of your life" he said stenning back and nick. tone. You are not on the deck of your imposes upon me the necessity of depriving you of your liberty. I regret Paul Jones," said Lady Elizabeth. Should the report of the scouts be fallock, in her word, when she had said. do not see how he is to get it," said "Oh, am I not? Boat aloy, there: the necessity, believe me; 'tis a poor stepping forward and giving the little

Edward Coventry, the son of my guard- "Cockswain, come here!" said the of- rebel against his majesty. It is my mind me of it too constantly for it to sea scrape. "Want us to take a hand treatment, however, and you liberty of

"You monster?" cried Elizabeth, turned away his head to give an order

your lover a moment since?" "My looking at him with eyes filled with hand." He smiled bitterly at her as he to unless you wish to shotter yourself try was posting his men. He hesitated a moment, however, and, taking her hand, bowed low over it.

member.

with tears, "will never forget"the privileges of a parole, and if you

as well die right here as at any place

"Handle your pistols, men!" cried the other, whipping out his own; but again Elizabeth interfered in the fray. She ran between the American seamen and the English soldiers with outstretched

"Stop!" she cried. "There must be to set me free. My life is bis"-

also," she added reproachfully. "I give it to him as well, and if any more lives are wanted anybody can have mine for the taking," interrupted

the sailor again. "This must go no further," continued

"And it shall not, madam!" cried a leep, clear voice as one of the cutters of the Ranger, filled to the gunwales with heavily armed men, and with a lad," remarked the officer cheerfully. swivel in the bow and a men standing

"I am sorry to interrupt a tete-a-tete,

gentlemen," he cried, "You are beaten again, Major Coven thrust on the part of Coventry, whose try," said O'Neill calmly. "The odds on to the yardarm in a tossin' sea

lowed by a dashing riposte en quarte, your arms instantly, you dogs," he if I must, I must, I must, I guess, which was met and returned with less shouted to the English soldiers, "Back!

lishman's swird from his hand. It her around the waist as if she had been and you'll be going free most of the flew up into the air and fell clanging a child, lifted her out of the line of fire. | way. Just give him a touch of your Coventry was unarmed and helpless things he did not release her, nor did soon make the harbor." before a bitter enemy. He was the she struggle to get away. The sullen "I never thought about the wind." "Stand by!" shouted Jones to the marines in his boat and to the gunners

there. Go. I entreat you!"

"Stendy, lads, stendy!" cried Jones, the same? You are outnumbered, and two men had stood and to the north we can cut you to pieces. Take the of the town rose a bold, splendid headword of an older fighter, your honor land, or sear, almost an island, to the will be safe, sir."

needs submit, I suppose," said Coven- old castle. The headland jutted boldly try, resigning himself the more gracefully to the inevitable, as he could then dashed upon its walls from every side. receive his love again. "Come, Lady

was captured?" said O'Neill, releasing otherwise impassable connection beher waist, but still holding her hand. be with me?" she whispered, caught tide,

a blush covering her face. "God bless you for that, and goodby." he said, bowing over her hand, "A year, give me a year"- He turned and walked away.

"Sir," said Coventry, sheathing his sword and walking down to where Jones stood upon the sand, "we have been misinformed concerning you. I have had a little interview with your first lieutenant which has convinced me that I was wrong, and this talk has added to my knowledge. As an officer of the king I offer you my hand. allillations may be, I am glad to recogulze in you gentlemen of merit and distinction. I trust to be able to repay the obligation you have laid upon me and my betrothed on some future "Sir," replied Jones, "I love a gal-

thank you for your courtesy "And I as well," added O'Neill, "It is not the practice of the Amerfean navy," continued Jones, "to force

lant for I shall remember you. I

"Elizabeth," said Coventry magnant-

"I shall ever remember Captain John

never forget Lieutenant O'Nelll."

turned away.

CHAPTER VII. AFTER A LONG TIME.

Scarborough."

is merchantmen. There ain't a gun on apon him. board any on 'em. Nice pickin's them When Jones had returned with the the grasp of a rough hand upon his

come for. They are the Baltic convoy. without doubt, and you would better

"An' you, sir?" asked the old man reelse, and I do not think I shall go to spectfully. "Won't you come along. that castie, after all. There are seven | sir? I hate to cut cable an' leave you here adrift alone, yer honor."

"No," answered the officer, after a reflective pause. "I think I shall go up to that castle on the bluff beyond and find out a little more definitely as to the situation, if possible. Meanwhile do you get on your horse and ride back to Bridlington bay, Go aboard the Alert and tell Mr. Lunt. from me, to join the Richard to the southward at once, and notify Captain no further fighting here. This gentle- Jones of what we have seen. Tell him man came to this spot to do me a favor. I think it will be perfectly safe for him to come on. There is a great fleet of merchant ships here with only two ships of war. He will rejoice at the chance of a fair fight. I will find means to join him at the rendezvous sefore the rest of the ships can assemble and they can get under way. Now bear a hand Don't let the grass grow under your keel." "Oh. Lord, yer honor, have I got to

git on board that 'ere four legged craft | ag'in?" said old Price ruefully. "That's what you have to do, my "Seems like somethin's wrong with

ing. The maid, as usual, was furnish. It was under the command of Jones to me about on Cother tack, or wear ing a comic side to the scene by her himself, who had grown impatient at him, by shiftin his tail, I'd understand from the American service, however, him perfectly; but this yere tiller rope not because he cared particularly for riggin' over his bows is wot gits me. An', sir, I can't make out with them 'ere stirrups nuther; it's like hangin' foot slipped a little, a clever parry, fold are in our favor now. Throw down without no footropes. Howsomever,

"Ob, you won't mind it," replied the officer, laughing at the old man's rue-He sprang to her side and, clasping ful face, "Besides, the wind's fair The lealous Coventry noticed two Weather heel once in awhile, and you'll

tronger of the two, and it flashed into soldiers railied about Coventry and said the veteran gunner thoughtfully, presented their arms threateningly; his face brightening as he turned and they had no mind either to yield with- listened for it. "Yer honor's right. 'Twill be plain sailin'. Well, sir, anchor's aweigh, an' here goes!"

The old seaman, giving great evi dence of his distrelination in spite of "Stop, for God's sake stop, Captain the favoring breeze, at last climbed up-You have been good to me," on the back of his staid old horse, and, cried Elizabeth, now struggling faintly resisting the temptation to give him to escape from the grasp of O'Neill. "I bis direction by a pull of the tail, know that you are a gentleman. That got under way and inched rapidly officer is my betrothed. Withhold your down the road. Left to himself, the fire. They will retire. There must be licutenant mounted his own horseno bloodshed. You promised to set me surprising to state, for a sallor he was free and in safety ashore and leave me an excellent horseman-and rode down toward the sleeping town nestled around Scarborough harbor, which stepping out of the boat. "And you, was filled with a large fleet of merto the English officer, "will you chant ships convoyed by two men of withdraw quietly, taking your lady war, all riding quietly at their anchors. with you, of course, if we engage to do | Opposite the accivity on which the

"You are right, sir; 'tis best, I must crest was crowned by a picturesque out into the sea, and the wild waters Access to the eastle from the town bridge springing over a rocky and see her again.

repair or had been dismantled in the part of it was still inhabitable and banself that he was in no danger. cently strefigthened and re-enforced. suffer.

coasts of the British islands for some arrival of the Baltie fleet in these waters and had presumed that it would unke Searborough barbor. Word had been received from a small trader beenant O'Nelll, seconded by Gunner Price of the Bon Homme Richard.

They had gone on ahead of the soundron in the cutter Alert and had landed below Searhorough headland

Ly, pointing to the officer, "is Major eager to take a hand in the fray. "You are, by your own statements, a be whispered as he bowed low over her lag countryman that Lord Westbrooke race, he could not prepare himself for was still governor of the castle, and be a disappointment. "Come and see," she answered, and at once surmised that Lady Elizabeth The moon had risen as he walked THERE are only two mon-of-war in the whole lot." cumstances had prevented him from have it as he was standing on the carrying out his plan of seeking her, causeway looking toward the gate he "Right, yer honor. That but she had ever been in his heart, was approached by a squad of soldiers, un near the shore there- and time and separation had but in- under the command of a sergeant, ing hand of the sergeant, away looks like a big frigate. That 'Il tensified his passion. The mercurial which was returning from an errand in "Yes, and that one farther out the the proud English beauty, and the con- gazing at the lights shining from the

I'm a man-of-war, I am," but he took avail had they attempted its capture. state of siege. Give an account of good care that his superior should not. Something of the story of his devo- yourself," hear these somewhat insubordinate re- tion had been allowed to leak out, "My friend," said O'Neili calmly, however, to account for his obduracy, glancing rapidly about him and giving "Well," said the other, finally turning and they finally understood why he up at once any idea of resistance, for about after his close scruting, "I think was so unusually insensible to their he was surrounded by at least a dozen we have ascertained about all we have charms. This romance naturally only men, one or two of whom had taid detect a piquancy to the feminine pur- violent hands upon him-"my friend," and of which he was the object, al- he said, speaking in broken English "Do you know," said O'Neill, "that I make a straight course for the ship at though the ladies' sportive love chase with a well simulated French accent



proved in the end unavailing. He had resolved, O'Netll said, to show the world that unusual speciacle, a constant Irishman. This was to attempt over it with a lighted match in his him," said the old sallor. "A animal the impossible, had been the quick rewith clasped hands, her face pale with hand, came sweeping around the head | Wot steers by the head is contrary-like | ply, but nevertheless he had accom-

Our Celtie mariner did not resign America, for democratic doctrines could never be acceptable to a follower of the young Stuart, the intimate associate of the young nobles of France; but, primarily, because he saw in it renewed opportunities to annoy and humiliate the stout Hanoverian whom he and his people hated and from whom they had received much barm, and, secondly, because he was so much attracted by the strong personality of Paul Jones So great had become his regard for this wonderful man that he had even

Dale, and had consented to serve as second lieutenant instead of first on on the coast, and we don't know when the Richard, when that famous ship he might strike or whom he might and her ill assorted consorts started send on shore. We can't be too care-

waited considerations of rank in favor

of an American, the gallant Richard

forth upon the memorable cruise, The tacticians of the French navy unfortunately were not given to con- O'Neill, shrugging his shoulders and sider downright hard fighting as the resigning himself gracefully to the inend and aim of naval enterprise. Their evitable. maneuvers were calculated to annov and barass the enemy, but their first officer, "Bring him along, sergeant." thought was not to destroy his ships, but to protect their own-a fatal mis- right about face, march!" take in policy from which they have ever suffered

This was not John Paul Jones' way. evening of Tuesday, the 21st of Sep- and hastened to apprise the governor if Lady Elizabeth Howard lived 'ere tember, 1779; he was utterly unable to of the capture, he even ventured most | wen he was down in the courtyard." was by means of a causeway and resist the temptation at least to try to imprudently to ask the sergeant if

Jones and the shing were not due at tween the cliff and the mainland, the rendezvous until the day after the "Could it be because I wanted you to which was sometimes flooded at high next day; that would be Thursday morning. There would be ample time off her guard in spite of herself, with | Portions of the eastle were in bad to rejoin them on the next day, Wednesday, O'Neill imagined himself perfectseveral wars in which it had played a ly safe. He had used no disguise except memorable part since its erection near- to wear the uniform of a French naval ly 700 years before by a follower of officer, and as France and England William the Conqueror, but a large were nominally at peace he persuaded had been provided with a sufficient was a breach of military propriety, he garrison. A heavy water battery, admitted, of course, but nothing more, which had been placed in position dur- this fetture to return promptly to his ing the rebellion in 1745, had been re- ship, and for that he was willing to

With the delichtful easuistry of lov Richard, bad been cruising around the ers, he persuaded himself against his better judgment and failed to see his Whatever your political or personal time. He had heard of the expected action in its true military significance. Trusting to audacity, mother wit and Dan Cupid for protection, he went bravely on. In fact, he was taking his life in his hand. His love blinded him. had overhauled that a large number It is the chief function of the cheruble of ships had assembled in that harbor, | god, Without that power most matches and in order to ascertain whether he he attempts would fall. Meanwhile, might safely attack them with his with a heating heart-heating not from fear, but with anticipation-he rode slowly down the hill and into the town. where he left his forse at an inn and made his way, on foot and supportess, such his eagerness, toward the castle.

He had no definite plan. There did not seem to be room for any. He had at ridden on to Scarberough to ascer- one consuming desire to see, to speak the news back to Jones, on the Rich- beautiful girl who had been the object ard, farther down the coast, and the of his every thought, the end of his ressels of his squadron were all to us every desire, the spirit of every dream with a good harbor within easy reaching distance of the expected prey. There was that in her promise, in her vorable they would proceed at once to "Come and see" on the strand, which near the center of the room and covgave him the hope that she would walt On their journey to Scarborough until he did come, be it one year or two,

wig, jist think of them fat traders an' made much of by the French court. eWell, sir, wot are you a-doin' 'ere The gallant adventures in which he at this hour of the night? Entrance cer, stepping forward to the brow of of the old marshal, whose entree was wich has passes. No one is allowed the hill and taking another long look at already everything that could be de- on the causeway after sunset even. sired, and his heart accordingly had There's so many tales of raidin's an' "I ain't no transport," muttered the been a target for repeated attacks upon hell's own doin's on the coast by that carrulous old man under his breath. the part of the bright eyed and fasci- bloody ravagin' pirate Jones an' his "I won't carry no soldiers nowhere, nating dames of France, but to no bleedin' gang that we're a'most in a

great country. I hear of the old castie-I wish to see it; hence I come here. I have done nothing. You will let me go free?"

"Yes, monsieur, I have that honor." "Well, that settles it. You've got to come along with us now. A freg eatin' Frenchman's our natural born enemy "But, monsieur, there is no war be-

tween my master and your king."
"Don't monshur me. I don't take no palaverin', an' I don't know nothin' about whether there is war or not." said the sergeant brusquely; "but we slways did hate the bloody Frenchies. an' we always will, an' whenever we ketch one of 'em around here he's got to give an account of hisself. Now, if you come along peaceable like, all right-we won't hurt you. If you don't, we'll just pick you up and carry you. You can take your choice," he

A horseman galloping in from the town at this moment drew rein in front

him a prowlin' round here. He's a spy. I tilkes it." answered the sergeant, sa luting, but still retaining his grasp.

"Pardon me, monsieur," said O'Neill; the meaning of this? Do you know "I am no spy. I am a gentleman of this man?" asked the admiral in great France, as I explain to this man. I astonishment. travel-come here to see the castle"-

"Well, sir, I can assist you to attain your end," interrupted the lieutenant on the borse, "and, since you desire to see the castle, perhaps you froid himself, though his heart was would not object to taking a look at beating so rapidly he could scarce It from the inside."

"As a prisoner, monsieur?" way, but I shall be compelled to turn you over to the governor."

"But I protest mansiour! "You can protest to the admiral if you will have to come along now, under the circumstances. We hear that d-d Scots buccaneer Paul Jones is ful, you know."

"Very well monsiour I come " said

"That's good," answered the young "Yes, leftenant. Now, you Johnnie,

It was in this unexpected and undignified manner that O'Neill gained entrance to the castle. As they waiked baving been kept strictly in abevance, Whatever else he did, he was a fighter beneath the great gates of the gloomy O'Neill shrugged his shoulders and exfrom the beginning to the end, and fortress his heart, in spite of the seri- tended his hands in confirmation of her O'Neill found in him a congenial spir- ous nature of his position, gave a bound words, it. The lovelorn Irishman had tried of elation. This reckless young man several times to communicate with had as yet no other thought than that Lady Elizabeth by letter and messen- by every step he had been brought a ger, but without success, for he re- little nearer to his divinity. If other ceived no reply to his letters, and his thoughts had come it is doubtful if he messengers had never returned. There- would have allowed them to stop him fore, when he found himself in such now. As the party balted in the courtclose proximity to her as on this, the yard, while the lieutenant dismounted

> "She is," replied the astonished functionary. "Wot's that to you, I'd like Elizabeth has knowledge of this gento know?"

CHAPTER VIII. LADY ELEZABETH DOES NOT KNOW THE

MARQUIS DE RICHEMONT. EFORE he could answer an orstone steps and going through a long, for." dark passage, a great door was thrown "It was in pursuance of my desire to open at the end and he was confronted see so great a beauty that I asked the by a blaze of light which dazzled him question, monsieur." at first, until, his eyes becoming accustomed to the illumination, he realized much honor," said Elizabeth, courtesythat he stood on the threshold of a ing. splendid hall in the old keep, which

censelessly upon the bluff below filled the room with a subdued murmur like a strain of husbed and vibrant music. such was the elevation of the tower. The room was massively and splendidly furnished with heavy antique and there were portraits of distinguish- man. ed members of the Westbrooke family. women renowned for their lustrous Lady Elizabeth Howard rejoicing, beauty or men who, holding the castle sir." at different times, had made their names famous by their bravery and

thick, soft, luxurious carpet stretched and bandy compliments about all day upon the stone flags of the old floor. Writing at a large table standing ered with candelabra sat a bewigged stands in your very presence. old man of commanding presence dressed in a paval uniform covered with orders and stors bespeaking high rank. Farther away, with her back turned ward had it not been for the restrain-

"The prisoner, m' lud," said the latter, saluting, The admiral continued his writing a moment and then, looking up, fixed his eyes keenly upon the young man. His first glance told him that he had to

"Have the goodness to step forward. sir, and be sented," he said, pointing to

man, O'Neill took a few steps in his direction and sat down on the indicated chair in front of the admiral, facing him and the woman beyond, who, still intent upon her book or lost in thought. had not yet noticed his entrance. Prisoners, in fact, being everyday occurrences at the castle in these troublous times, had ceased to interest her. Still the unusual complaisance of the old again. man as expressed by his voice and but he bastened to repair it as best be looked up from the book without turn-

ing her head and listened. "I am sorry to subject you to any annoyance, sir," continued the admi- picture?" ral, "but the rules are very strict, and I must abide by my own regulations. Liverpool a year and a half ago," an-We apprehend a descent upon our coast by the notorious pigate, John Paul Jones"-O'Neill started violently and bit his lip, but said nothing-"and it is my duty to take unusual precautions," added the speaker. "I must ask your name, your station and business here."

"I am the"- said O'Neill quietly, but with his glance fixed on the powdered head showing over the chair back op-

posite him. There was a commotion at the other side of the table. Lady Elizabeth sprang to her feet with a hurried exclamation, dropped her book to the bie occasion indeed, when he was on floor and then turned quickly and stepped toward the other two. O'Neill and lieve." the admiral both rose at the same

She was en grande tenue, her hair relled high and powdered, jewels sparkling about the snowy throat, which rose from the pale blue silk of her

"The Marquis de Richement, at your service, mademoiselle." O'Neill intersupted quickly, bowing low before her. fearing lest in her surprise she would betray him.

"Good heavens, Elizabeth, what is

"Every travelor." smilingly interrupted O'Neill suavely, striving to give Elizabeth time to collect herself, with the appearance of the greatest sangmaintain his composure, "on these islands has heard of the beauty of Lady "Well, I am sorry you put it that Elizabeth Howard. Her reputation as a woman of charm has even extended to the continent whence I come. It was in the hope of having the privilege of seeing her that I walked up toward you wish-the governor. I mean-for the castle this evening. I have not the honor of her acquaintance, monsieur.'

"Do you know this man, Elizabeth?" persisted the admiral sternly, his susnicions aroused by her notions, There was evidently some mysters about his coming, and the girl was quick to see that to proclaim O'Notil's name and occupation would probably piace him in an embarrassing position

to say the least. She recovered herself

by a great effort and, turning languidly away, remarked with well assumed "1? Certainly not, sir. I have never heard of the Marquis de Richemont hefore in my life." The statement was absolutely correct, the Irishman's rank

"Why that cry, then, and your surprise, madam?" questioned the still

unconvinced admiral. "I know not sir. I must have been dreaming, and the sound of a strange voice startled me."

"Beg pardon, m' lud." said the ser geant, saluting, "Yer worship, he axed "Silence, sirrah!" thundered the old Lady Elizabeth Howard was in the admiral, who allowed no one to entertain doubts of his ward but himself. "Do you mean to imply that Lady

tleman?" "Oh, sergeant!" said the girl, clasping her hands and looking at the old veteran with all the fascination of which she was capable.

"No, yer judship, no, sir, O' cours der came for the prisoner to not; certainly not, yer honor," returned be brought forward. After the man in great confusion. "I spoke ascending a flight of worn by way o' showin' that's wot he come

"Sir your admiration does me too

"I make up for the fact that your had possibly once been the banqueting reputation does your ladyship too hall of the castle. Long lancet win- tle, then, mademoiselie, he answered

"Enough of this," said the admiral

filled with rich painted glass, looked impatiently. "The girl is well enough, out upon the sea, whose waves beating | but you didn't come here to look at her, did you?" "On my honor as a gentleman, mon

sleur, for no other purpose, "Well, give some account of yourself otherwise, and perhaps if it be satisfactory, as you have accomplished furniture. The stone walls were cov- that purpose, I may send you on your ered with hangings of rich old tapestry | way rejoleing," said the admiral, amusfrom the famous looms of Arras. Here ed at the extravagance of the young

"No man could leave the presence of

"Damustice, sir!" cried the governor

like a French dancing master?"

"I have nothing further to urge for my words, my lord, when my excuse The governor looked at the two young people in great perplexity. "I fear, my dear Marquis de Riche-

mont," said he ironically, lupless you to the light and to the door by which he can give some more coherent account had entered, a young woman sat, ap- of yourself I shall be under the painparently reading intently. One glance ful necessity of having you locked up, at the graceful curve of her neck and in which case the only divinity you the exquisite poise of her head told will be allowed to gaze upon will be the levely face and figure of yonder

> "Yes, yer Indship, I'- exclaimed the sergeant, grimacing. "Silence, sirrah!" thundered the ad-

"My lord," answered O'Neill, smiling. "it is very simple. I am an officer in the navy of the king of France, making a tour of England for pleasdeal with no ordinary prisoner. He evening. I hear of the great admiral, rose at once and bowed with the cour- Lord Westbrooke, in his great castle Elizabeth Howard. I am a lover of the chair. "Sergeant, remain on guard way gazing at the castle. Your soldiers arrest me and bring me bere. I rejoice to find Lady Elizabeth more beautiful than I have dreamed. A

> year and a half have only intensified her charms." "A year and a half! Dreams, sir! What mean you by that, pray? What have the years to do with the matter? Did you see her a year and a half since?" cried the admiral suspiciously

> could

"And where, pray, have you seen her "In the possession of an English officer, a friend of mine whom I met at

"I have seen her picture, sir."

swered O'Neill audaciously.

"And who was this English officer, pray, who displayed my picture?" interrupted Elizabeth, with an appearance of great agitation.

"Major Edward Coventry, mademoiselle

"Oh, Edward! Why, God bless me," said the admiral genially, "he is my son. Do you mean to tell me you are a friend of his? Why didn't you say so before?" "I had the honor of his acquaint-

ance," said O'Neill, bowing gravely, "on one very interesting and memora-"Yes, that would be about a year and a half ago. Sir, in that case you are very welcome to this castle," said the

admiral. "And now I beg leave to present you in due and proper form to my ward. Lady Elizabeth Howard, permit me to introduce to you the Marquis de Richemont." "I sm charmed to have the pleasure

of meeting the marquis," responded the girl, smiling and courtesying deep-

mademoiselle," responded O'Neill, ful-



catalogue," replied Coventry coidly. to my erschilling with this," said Price. O'Nottl. drawing his sword, "Now will You fight or not?" "And if I persist in my refusal?" ADY ELIZABETH, you time. here?" he exclatmed, stop-"At this inneture I shall be under ping short in great surprise. the painful necessity of killing you in "What is the meaning of the presence of your betrothed; so the touchy O'Neill, He stood a moment as if petridraw, my dear sir, if not for honor, "What? ly. Elizabeth started violently. "Major Coventry! Edward!" she

whilpping out his sword. "Stop!" select Elizabeth, springing be-

and answered coldly

grinding his teeth. "Your confermation comes too late, came over Coventry. sir." said G Nell with bitter emphasis,

"This gentleman treated me with the most distinguished courtesy." "I wish that he had exhibited some of it here," interrupted Coventry again. my own." "I have but followed your own ex-

ward? They are not pirates"-

"Enough, Lady Elizabeth," said O'Neill, taking his share in the con- while you may yet do so in safety." versation again. "Two lovers are sometimes an embarrassment of riches. you will stand aside. I trust that a few moments will rid you of one or the other of them."

"We have you, or rather he has," responded the Irishman. "Withdraw, I beg of you, Elizabeth, This matter must be settled," said Coventry in his tuen. "I will not I tell you!" persisted the

nothing to quarrel about.

you came here and who this person is, savagely. "Will you withdraw, mad-"I repeat it, I will not, and I wish if you wish him to have the infor- to remind you that I do not like your

ship now, sir," G'Neill primly, his dark face flushing Price!" cried C'Neill, waving his hand, return for your generosity, but I have eaptain her hand to kiss, and I shall attack the convoy, "This gentleman," said the girl faints to the shore again. The erew were "What mean you?"

"And your betrothed, Elizabeth; you "Aye, age, sir," replied the sailor, loyal servant of the king to apprehend And while the other two stood womler- you. Indeed, I have been especially "I almost wish I could," she replied ing the veteran seaman rolled up to charged to look out for you. I will sharply, gathering courage. "You re- them and saluted his Educement with a promise you and your men the best of

came here?" said Coventry Impatients stand. "I think you have said enough, ly, with mounting color at all this by- sir, and if you are ready," he said, "we will talk in another fashion." Commental ship Ranger, Captain John composedly. Two swords flashed in the air simultaneously and rang purning at this moment, having finished "The d-d murdering pirate," ex. ngninst each other with deadly purpose his dispositions. "I think you overstep a moment after. Both men were masters of the weapon. Coventry had will have your men lay down their ward with his hand upon his sword, been thoroughly trained in the more

"Ah, in Ireland?" The manner of the question made it another insuit, but with clasped hands, her face pale with hand, came sweeping around the head with clasped hands, her face pale with hand, came sweeping around the head sweeping around the hea

screams of "Murder! Help!" while the the delay.

sailors were deeply interested in the Finally after one especially victors skill than usual. O'Neill, with a grace- Out of the way, Miss Howard." ful turn of the wrist, whirled the Eng-

his mind to spring upon his antagonist anddenly, eatch him in his arms and overcome him by brute force, but the out a fight,

man, on the sword's point,

"Oh he will be killed; he will be kill.

"Sir Englishman, pick up ing, "men may call you pirate"-

"That I grant you. I was about to add that, whatever they call you, you fight like a gentleman, and it will give me great pleasure to testify to your season. Will you permit me, though I

account for the sudden change which "I shall esteem myself honored, sir.

THE MASTER PLAYER TAKES A HAND. T this moment a number of

The Englishman in great astonish "No. Take this lady and her maid to "I am twice captured then, it seems," said the lieutenant, looking at Eliza-"That's easy; 'tain't no tightin' at all. both, who had come forward as soon that. Come along, yer feddyship," said as old Price, who had left her, had the old man in great disappointment sprung to his officer's side. As the girl drew near to him and Major Coventry

> "Why did you not call out to save "It was not necessary," she said,

"Thank you." he whispered gratefully. "This word, and you, I shall re-"And I," said the girl, her eyes filling "Come, sir." said Coventry dryly.

"Close in there!" sharply shouted Coventry to his soldiers, who obeyed him promptly. "Make ready!"

"I give it back to you!" cried O'Neill. "And yours, Major Coventry, was his

be the Serapis, I'm thinkin'."

Il be fer us poor sailor men arter we Ranger from his first successful cruise, shoulder and a harsh voice in his ear dispose of them war vessels. Dash my be and his officers had been feted and saying: we a-runmagin' among 'em'-"That will do, Price. Just moderate had participated lent a new charm to to the eastle is forbid to every one exyour transports a little," said the offi- the fasciunting personality of the son cept members of the garrison or them

dows upon one side, their leaded frames

Howard would probably be there with quietly through the town and began to her guardian. Six months more than mount the hill. He did not know how the g ar he had asked for from her to gain admittance to the castle when had chapsed, and many untoward cir- he approached it, and as ill luck would carrying out his plan of seeking her, causeway looking toward the gate he thing else, he would have stepped for-Irishman had been deeply smitten by the town. His meditations as he stood stancy of his devotion evidenced the different windows, wondering behind "Aye, aye, sir, an' all the rest on 'em depth of the impression she had made which wall was enseeneed the idol of his heart, were rudely interrupted by

"A Frenchman?"

added indifferently.

"Ah, sergeant, what is it? Whon have you there?" he queried sharply. "Tis a Frenchman, sir. We found

"It is" - she cried.

"The pleasure and the honor are mine.